

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH



# *In Touch*

North Bucks Branch - [www.northbucksbranch.org.uk](http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk)

February 2019

*Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church  
Bellringers*

*North Bucks Branch,*

*Annual General Meeting*

*Saturday 2nd of March 2019*

*St. Marys, Newport Road, Woughton on the  
Green, MK6 3BE*

*15:00 - 16:30 General Ringing*

*16:30 - 17:00 Service*

*17:00 - 17:45 Tea and refreshments*

*18:00 - 19:00 Annual General Meeting*

*Names for tea to Brian Baldwin, 01908 670 579 or  
[bmb28mk@gmail.com](mailto:bmb28mk@gmail.com), by the 25th of February 2019.*

*\*\*\*All members should attend; this is your branch\*\*\**

## Wavendon Tower News

Wavendon Tower continues to be called upon for a handful of weddings annually, so we're grateful to ringers from other towers (especially Woughton, Bletchley, and recently Newton Longville) for helping us out with this. We've also called upon unattached ringers to help us ring for events of local significance, such as the village fete, where the bells are always warmly appreciated.

Last November, we were particularly glad to ring in celebration of the armistice anniversary, marking the end also of a weekend Peace Exhibition at St Mary's Church. Weeks of planning had preceded long hours installing creative responses to the 'peace' theme from local school children, residents and church members, while an hour of live presentations proved a well-received and moving highlight involving young musicians, readings by Cllr David Hopkins and church members, and a special appearance by the MK Poet Laureate, Mark Niel. It was therefore an honour to ring with friends both old and new to conclude the celebrations.

While we are currently not holding weekly practices at Wavendon, we hope to continue to meet occasionally when time allows, and we can usually offer use of our friendly and musical bells to touring and local bands, and we're looking forward to being one of the host towers for the Guild's Ringing Day on May 6th.

### Remembrance Day Ringing

A tidy set of rounds and called changes (to Queens) and short extents of Grandsire Doubles were rung at Wavendon from 7.05pm on Sunday 11th November 2018. Thank you to Brian Baldwin (Woughton), David Baskerville (Newton Longville), and Andy and Samantha King (unattached) who joined Wavendon members Cerys Dallen, Hazel Dallen and Patricia Rosewell to mark this celebration of peace.

*Patricia Rosewell*

## Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

The re-ordering of the Guild website is steadily gaining momentum after a rather delayed restructuring. I am keen to make sure that as many of our towers and ringers as possible can be represented on the main ODG web pages, although I am well aware that several branches already have superb individual websites, which are a really valuable resource for us all.

To help us, please will you send any photos that you have of your own tower, or ringers, to Tim Hayward who is developing the website, so that he can use them throughout the pages? His address is [webmaster@odg.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@odg.org.uk) and he will be working on it over the Christmas break.

*ODG Master, Katie Lane*

## Practice Night—St. Mary's Whaddon

While Whaddon no longer is able to hold a band practice due to a lack of numbers, the ringers are fortunate to have the monthly Open Practice at St. Mary's, Whaddon. This continues with ringers from a vast array of ability and from across branch borders, on the first Friday of every month. All abilities are welcome, and every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Please join in this friendly practice on a fine set of six (Tenor 16 hundred weight).

*Phillip Starr*

## Hanslope Bell Restoration Project

I am pleased to report that things are finally progressing with regard to the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project. We have received a date of Monday 8 July from Whites for work to commence on the project and the bells to be removed from the tower. This date is dependant upon a couple of things happening and/or being in place before then. A structural engineer is due to visit in early March, as requested by the Oxford Diocesan Guild with reference to the faculty, which will hopefully then be awarded. Two beams also need to be installed above the bells, which will enable Whites to use them to mount the hoists for lifting the bells.

We are still approximately £15,000 short of our total required amount of £80,000. However, the church has made the decision to proceed with the project and schedule further events to raise this final amount while the project is in progress.

We would be very grateful if anyone would like to make a donation to the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project. Please contact either myself (01908 510105) or our project co-ordinator Diane Gordon (07885 686162)

*Sheila Blenkhorn*

## Peels and Quarter Peels

### **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Shenley**, Buckinghamshire

St Mary's

Monday, 14 May 2018 in 43m (11-0-8 in G)

### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1 Robin Starr

2 Anne McIntyre

3 Martin Petchey

4 John Brookman

5 Gary Reading

6 Simon J O Head (C)



To commemorate the death 100 years earlier, of Pte Joseph James Slater, aged 25 of the 5th Bn. Yorkshire Regiment, the fifth Loughton man to die in the Great War and buried in Beaufort French National Cemetery.

### **Joseph Slater 1893 - 1918**

Joseph James Slater was born in Loughton in 1893, the third child of William and Elizabeth (nee Adnitt) Slater. He had 6 siblings – Violet, Percy, Martha and 3 others that died in childhood.

The Slaters were originally from Bedford where Joseph's grandfather started out as a brick-layer before re-training and becoming a hospital nurse. Joseph's grandmother was a dress-maker, an occupation his mother subsequently took up. Joseph's father was a coach builder for the railways, moving from Bedford to Newport Pagnell in the 1880s.

Sadly, Joseph's mother died in 1910 at the age of 48. His father re-married in 1911, Lizzie Adnitt of Northampton who was Elizabeth's cousin.

In 1911, Joseph, his father and brother Percy lived in 58 Priory St, Newport Pagnell.

In 1915, Joseph married Dora Maud Jones and they had two children – Olive in 1916 and Joseph in 1917. They were living in Loughton.

Joseph enlisted at Bletchley in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battn Yorkshire Regt.

In May 1918, the regiment was in Craonne and it appears Joseph was wounded on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. He died of wounds on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1918 and is commemorated at Beaufort French National Cemetery, Pontavert.

Joseph Slater was 25 when he died. He was awarded, posthumously, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

*Anne McIntyre*

## Oxford Diocesan Guild

Loughton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Thursday, 30 August 2018 in 44m (11–2–14 in G)

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Anne McIntyre

2 Liz Wagstaff

3 Martin Petchey

4 Douglas S Vale

5 Simon J O Head (C)

6 Keith Wagstaff



To commemorate the death 100 years earlier, of Sgt Harold George Kitchener DCM, aged 21 of the 6th Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment, the sixth Loughton man to die in the Great War and buried in Daours Communal Cemetery.

This quarter is also the second QP in the Mayor of Milton Keynes' Challenge



Back Row : Martin Petchey, Keith Wagstaff, Dougie Vale  
Seated : Anne McIntyre, Simon Head, Liz Wagstaff

### Harold Kitchener 1897 - 1918

Harold George Kitchener was born in Loughton in 1897, the eldest son of George Ernest and Alice Sophia (nee Dance) Kitchener. He had 5 siblings – Grace, Kathleen, Leonard, Gwendolene and George.

Harold's father was a baker, the family living in Beech Cottage in Loughton in 1911.

In 1911 Harold took up a 5-year apprenticeship as a wheelwright and carpenter with Frederick James Lay of Turvey.

Harold was 17 when he enlisted in Bedford in 1914 in the Bedfordshire Regt, later moving to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battn Northants Regiment.

He was one of the first young men from Loughton to volunteer to serve their country. He went to France in July 1915 and saw action on the Western Front including the battles of Albert, Bazentin Ridge, Delville Wood, Thiepval, and Ancre, and in August 1916 was promoted to Sergeant. During 1917, engagements included, the Third Battle of the Scarpe, the battles of Pilkem, Langemark and Passchendaele and in 1918, the battles of St Quentin, Avre, Villers-Bretonneux, Amiens, Albert and Bapaume. In August 1918 with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battn, Northants, Harold was awarded the DCM 'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty' for his actions in reconnaissance between 22-25<sup>th</sup> August.

On 21 August the British Third Army launched an attack intending to drive the Germans back towards the town of Bapaume. This ground was chosen as it was less torn-up by years of shelling, and thus better suited to mobile attacks with armoured support. The roar of artillery, somewhat muffled by the heavy blanket of fog which prevented observation beyond 100 yards, broke out in the east. Fighting continued and on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, the New Zealand division began to surround the town of Bapaume, where several major roads intersected. The German defenders resisted the siege until the night of 28 August, when they retreated to positions just east of Bancourt and Frémicourt.

Harold was 21 when he died of wounds on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1918 almost certainly sustained at Bapaume and is buried in Daours Cemetery which at the time was almost in the front line.

He was awarded, posthumously, the Victory Medal, The British War Medal and the 1915 Star

Harold is commemorated on the Fenny Stratford war memorial as well as in Loughton.

*Anne McIntyre*

## **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Loughton**, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Sunday, 11 November 2018 in 42m (11–2–14 in G)

### **1260 St Martin's Bob Doubles**

1 Anne McIntyre

2 Graham Bartholomew

3 Liz Wagstaff

4 Ann Birch

5 Simon J O Head (C)

6 Keith Wagstaff

Rung on Armistice Day to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War prior to a special commemorative service for "Battle's Over"

Also rung to commemorate Joseph Herbert Kitchener, the eighth Loughton man on the war memorial, who died after the war in 1922.

1st in method - 3



Back Row : Graham Bartholomew, Simon Head, Keith Wagstaff  
Seated : Liz Wagstaff, Anne McIntyre, Ann Birch

### **Herbert Kitchener 1886 - 1922**

Joseph Herbert Kitchener was born in Loughton in 1886 to Charles and Esther Mary (nee Slatter) Kitchener. It was a twin birth – sadly his brother Cecil died soon after. Additionally, Herbert had 2 sisters – Florence and Constance.

Herbert was a cousin to Arthur Kitchener, also commemorated on the Loughton war memorial (their mothers were sisters) – and Arthur was uncle to Harold who we commemorated in August.

Herbert's father and grandfather were bakers while his mother's family were farmers of a large farm of around 100 acres in Deddington, Oxon. However, by 1911, his father ran a grocery and beer-house while living at Mount Pleasant in Loughton.

Herbert and his sister Florence lived in the Grocery Shop in Loughton in 1911 where she was the manageress and he was the assistant. Probably the same shop his father ran. His other sister, Constance, was a teacher at the village school.

It is not clear when or where Herbert enlisted – nor where he fought. Although he survived the war and returned home to Loughton, he must have been suffering – whether physical wounds or the effects of gas poisoning – from which he subsequently died as he is listed as 'war dead' on the Loughton war memorial. He was 36 when he died in 1922 in Northampton. Both his sisters married and continued to live in the area.

*Anne McIntyre*

## Oxford Diocesan Guild

Loughton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Thursday, 25 October 2018 in 43m (11–2–14 in G)

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Keith Wagstaff
- 2 Terry Page
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Liz Wagstaff
- 5 Edward Fawcett (C)
- 6 Jonathan Waters



11th

To commemorate the death 100 years ago today, of Sgt Eric Purvis, aged 22 of the Bn. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, the seventh Loughton man to die in the Great War and buried in Heestert Military Cemetery. Eric Purvis was the author of popular sketches about army life written while recovering from wounds in Ireland and was also an expert writer on bee-keeping as well as being a well-known athlete in Buckinghamshire.



Band L to R : Anne McIntyre, Jonathan Waters, Liz Wagstaff,  
Keith Wagstaff, Edward Fawcett, Terry Page

### Eric Purvis 1896 - 1918

Eric Purvis was born in Northampton in 1896, the eldest son of William Frederick and Mary Ann (nee Smart) Purvis. He had 1 brother, Wilfred. His father's family were Northampton shop-keepers while his mother was from Wales where her father was a village police constable.

His father was an author and editor. He wrote 'South Africa, It's People, Progress and Problems' published in 1897 and was awarded the MBE in 1918 after working in the Food Production Office during the War.

Originally from Northampton, in 1901 the family was in Holborn in London but by 1911 they were in Simpson Rd, Fenny Stratford.

At the outbreak of war, Eric was already building a reputation at the Royal Agricultural college in plant and animal breeding. He was also a well-known all-round athlete in Buckinghamshire.

Eric was 18 when he enlisted at Aylesbury on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1914 in firstly, the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, then the 11<sup>th</sup> Battn of the Royal West Surrey (the Queens) Regt which was made up of mainly Kitchener Volunteers. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1915.

By Feb 1916 the battalion was stationed in Aldershot and were mobilised for war landing at Le Havre, then taking part in conflicts in France and Flanders. In Nov 1917 they were deployed to Italy to strengthen the Italian resistance.

In March 1918, deployed back to France, Eric would have seen action in the Battles of St Quentin, Bapaume, Arras, Ypres, Courtrai and finally action of Ooteghem (25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1918). Already wounded twice previously, Eric was killed on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1918 while involved in heavy fighting to capture the village of Heestert.

Eric Purvis was 22 when he was killed in action and is buried in Heestert Military Cemetery in Belgium. His mother, Mary Ann Purvis lost her father, sister and son in the same year.

Eric Purvis was the author of a number of popular entertaining sketches about army life published in 1918 which he had written while recovering from wounds in Ireland. He also collaborated on a book of army games and several agricultural and horticultural textbooks and was an expert writer on bee-keeping.

He was awarded, posthumously, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

Anne McIntyre

**First Quarter on the restored bells**

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Loughton**, Buckinghamshire

All Saints'

Sunday, 10 June 2018 in 40m (11–0–0 in G)

**1260 All Saints Place Doubles**

1 Anne McIntyre

2 Becky Fawcett

3 Ann Birch

4 Gary W Reading

5 Edward Fawcett (C)

6 Graham Bartholomew

First quarter on the newly restored bells, rung by the same band who rang the final quarter on the old bells.

Rung to celebrate All Saints' 800th anniversary, and Anne and Steve's 29th wedding anniversary.

100th quarter peal – 3

*Anne McIntyre*

**For the re-dedication of the bells**

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Loughton**, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Sunday, 4 November 2018 in 41m (11–2–14 in G)

**1260 All Saints Place Doubles**

1 Liz Wagstaff

2 Richard Booth

3 Anne McIntyre

4 Ann Birch

5 Simon J O Head (C)

6 Graham Bartholomew

For the re-dedication of the bells and for the Patronal Festival



Back Row : Richard Booth, Simon Head, Graham Bartholomew  
Seated : Ann Birch, Anne McIntyre, Liz Wagstaff

*Anne McIntyre*

**For Derek Stainsby's granddaughter's wedding**

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**  
Loughton, Buckinghamshire  
All Saints

Saturday, 8 December 2018 in 43m (11–2–14 in G)

**1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor**

- 1 Terry Page
- 2 Anne McIntyre
- 3 Becky Fawcett
- 4 Ann Birch
- 5 John Brookman
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

Following the wedding at this church of Beth Stainsby and Hugo Govett with congratulations and best wishes from the band. Beth is the granddaughter of Derek Stainsby, retired tower captain of All Saints who taught Beth to ring.

*Anne McIntyre*

**Ringling Remembers**  
**St Mary's, Lillingstone Lovell**  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
**1400+ Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Michael Dancer
- 2 Malcolm Jones (1<sup>st</sup> qtr rung inside)
- 3 Nicola Stuchbury (1<sup>st</sup> qtr rung inside)
- 4 Robin Culley
- 5 David Goodger (1<sup>st</sup> qtr conducted)
- 6 Peter Nicholson

In memory of the 1400 bell ringers who lost their lives during WW1

*Malcolm Jones - Tower Captain*

**For Derek Stainsby's Birthday**

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**  
Loughton, Buckinghamshire  
All Saints

Monday, 21 January 2019 (11–2–14 in G)

**1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor**

- 1 Liz Wagstaff
- 2 Terry Page
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Ann Birch
- 5 Becky Fawcett
- 6 John Brookman (C)

Rung to celebrate the **89th** birthday the following day of Derek Stainsby, retired tower captain of this tower



Band Left to Right, Treble to Tenor

*Anne McIntyre*



**All Saints, Emberton**

Thursday, 3 January 2019 in 47m (9–0–18 in G)

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1. Maureen White
2. Alan Cozens
3. Wendy A Haslam
4. Harvey Welch
5. Phil M Haslam
6. Tony Gray (C)

To celebrate the New Year. First Quarter - Maureen White



**31st December 2018**  
**All Saints, Loughton**  
**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Lesley J Belcher**
- 2 Becky Fawcett (C)**
- 3 Anne McIntyre (C)**
- 4 Ann Birch (C)**
- 5 Liz Wagstaff**
- 6 Sarah Elliott**

To celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage; by an all ladies band



*Anne McIntyre*

**Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire**

SS Peter and Paul

Sunday, 25 November 2018 in 49m (21–2–16)

**1298 Plain Bob Major**

Composed by Simon Read

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Nicola A King
- 4 John B Marchbank
- 5 Nick Read
- 6 Phil M Haslam
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Simon Read (C)

Composed and rung in thanksgiving for the life of Freda Read, aged 98, beloved mother and grandmother to Nick and Simon.

*Simon Reed*